

TONTO National Forest



Recreation
Opportunity
Guide

www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto



HIKING AND TRAIL RIDING

WIND CAVE TRAIL 281

RANGER DISTRICT

Mesa Ranger Station
5140 E. Ingram Street
Mesa, AZ 85205
Phone (480) 610-3300 Fax (480) 610-3346

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS

Usery Mountain Park
3939 N. Usery Pass Road
Mesa, Arizona 85207
(480) 984-0032

TRAILHEAD (TH)

Usery Mountain Park

TERMINI

West end: (2030 feet elevation): at north end of Wind Cave Drive in the picnic area

East end: (2800 feet elevation): at Wind Cave

FEES

Usery Mountain Park requires an entry fee

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail use: Moderate to Heavy

Trail difficulty: More difficult

Trail length: 1½ mile

Season of Use: Spring - fall

USGS maps: Apache Junction

Elevation change: 770 feet

TRAIL NARRATIVE

Beginning at the Wind Cave Trailhead, this trail almost immediately crosses the Pass Mountain Loop Trail 282 and proceeds through the Tonto National Forest boundary fence. It ascends gradually for ½ mile, but the remainder of the trail is steep and strict attention should be paid to footing. The return trip is over the same route. Again: attention to footing is required since going downhill can be more hazardous than going uphill.

ATTRACTIONS

- As hikers ascend the hillside, a full panorama towards the southwest can be viewed.
- Wind Cave Trail offers wonderful examples of Sonoran Desert flora.
- With appropriate precipitation, the mountain slopes showcase many colorful spring wildflowers.

CONSIDERATIONS

- The trail is in fairly good condition, but is rather rocky and steep, making for a strenuous climb
- After a rain, travel can be even more difficult.
- Hot summer temperatures require trail users to take precautions.
- Carry an adequate supply of drinking water. One gallon/per person/per day is recommended during hot periods.
- Practice "Leave No Trace" ethics including: **If you PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!!**
- The trail alternates between steep sections and sections of decomposed granite. Both require careful attention to footing.
- Do not drink untreated water. Giardia, a protozoan, is in many water impoundments and streams.
- Livestock and bicycles are not permitted

